

# “ON CERTAINTY”

A performance by HermaKlijnstra and Laurie Barnes

12 August 2011 Kirchberg am Wechsel.

A performance called *On Certainty* took place during the 34<sup>th</sup> Wittgenstein Symposium in Kirchberg am Wechsel, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, 2011. It was performed at the monastery of the Dominican Sisters. The materials used were hinges, a wooden frame with shelves, some rope, words, and logs.

Description of the three acts in the performance:

## 1. The universal frame

In the first act, the wooden frame, connected by specially placed hinges, lay down on the ground. The studio of the nuns is situated to the left of the scene. On the right side, there is a pile of wooden logs for the fireplace. In the background, there is the stone wall of the monastery garden. Then, in the background the viewer sees the vast mountains. The light is tremendous, as seen in the photographs, as it is 13.00 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the first act, the frame pieces on the ground are pulled up to a vertical position by a rope, thus forming a 'universal frame'.

## 2. Words and logs

In the second act, seven wooden logs are placed on the lowest shelf, alternately, by the two performers. While setting the log into place, a word is spoken clearly and out loud as the log is 'named' or labeled:

1. Word 2. Fact 3. Picture 4. Thought 5. Proposition 6. General form 7. and nothing else

## 3. Out of order

In the third act, the upper shelf is filled with the remaining 'named' logs. Again, words are spoken by placing each log on the shelf. The logs are labeled: gesture, rose, child, arrow, formula, stone, money, coffee, pain, pillar, slab, beam, this, and that.

As the final log is placed into position, and the final word "that" is spoken, the rope that was holding the cabinet upright is released. The cabinet collapses, breaks into pieces, and tosses all of the organized logs to the ground, ridding them of order.